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## **Maryland Port Administration Salutes Women in Maritime Transportation**

*MPA Names Suzan Eckert of NSCSA Woman of the Year*

**BALTIMORE, MD** – The Maryland Port Administration (MPA) recently celebrated its sixth annual Women’s History Month by hosting a breakfast reception at the World Trade Center Baltimore. The event featured a panel discussion by female experts in the maritime field and the presentation of the MPA’s Woman of the Year award to Suzan Eckert of National Shipping Company or Saudi Arabia.

“Every year, people look forward to this event and who will be named Woman of the Year,” said M. Kathleen Broadwater, Acting Director of the Maryland Port Administration. “It is always interesting and sometimes educational to listen to the panel of women relate the stories of their careers.”

This year’s honoree, Suzan Eckert, started out in this industry in 1974 as a Line Manager for Ramsey Scarlett. From Ramsey Scarlett, she went to Wilhelmsen Lines in 1980 where she served as Traffic Manager, General Manager and National Traffic Manager.

Before joining NSCSA, she served a brief stint with Strachan Shipping as General Traffic Manager. Since joining NSCSA in 1995, she served as Customer Service Manager until she was promoted in 1996 to the position she holds today as International Pricing Manager.

Ms. Eckert spoke of her formidable experience in this sometimes-volatile industry.

According to Mary Jane Norris, MPA’s Regional Sales Manager and co-chair of the Women’s History Month committee, “Susan was recognized with this honor because of her dedication, perseverance and hard work. She is an inspiration for all women – not just those in the maritime field – but women working in all facets of business.”

Featured panelist at the event included: Amanda England with Henry Bath & Sons, Ltd.; Debbie Krause with P&O Ports, and Jean Hamilton with BWI Corporation. Featured speaker was Anne Ferro, President and CEO of Maryland Motor Truck Association. Acting MPA Director M. Kathleen Broadwater acted as moderator.

Women's History Month was established as a national observance in 1987 as a way to celebrate the important contributions women have made in the paid labor force. For the past five years, the MPA has recognized this occasion by honoring outstanding women in the maritime industry.

*Nearly 300 years old, the Port of Baltimore has consistently remained one of the top U.S. ports for several reasons. Located more than 150 miles inland, Baltimore is the closest U.S. Atlantic seaport to major mid-Western destinations and manufacturing centers. Nestled in the heart of the fifth largest, second wealthiest consumer market in the nation, Baltimore is a prime distribution location. The public terminals of the Port of Baltimore recently surpassed a brand new milestone...7 million tons of general cargo in FY 2003.*

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